GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:419
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
STUDENTS GOING ABROAD
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the number of Indian students going to the US for higher studies;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the number of students going to the USA is increasing due to better quality of higher education being provided;

(d) if so, the steps/measures being taken by the Government to improve the standard of education in Indian Universities;

(e) the number of students from foreign countries studying in Indian Universities ; and

(f) the percentage of Indian students pursuing higher education in the USA ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(Smt. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (c): Yes,Sir.As per information provided by the United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF),the number of student visa issued and students enrolled in that country during the last four years are given below :

Year	No. of Student Visa issued	No. of Indian Students enrolled
2004	16,891	79736
2005	18,653	80466
2006	24,622	76503
2007	32,652	83833

No separate information is available in respect of students pursuing higher education.There are no restrictions on cross-border students' mobility and such mobility can be owing to a variety of reasons such as affordability, access to bank loans,exposure to foreign societies, aptitude for particular branches of studies,inability to gain admission to top Indian institutions due to capacity limitation etc.Another reason could be the interest among students to join some of the universities in the US which have a long history of education and research spread over centuries.

(d): Several initiatives have been taken during the 11th Plan for improving the quality of education and bringing compatibility in education system with the global education system.The UGC has advised all Universities regarding examination reforms including introducing semester system,grading,credit transfer,continuous internal assessment and evaluation,streamlining of admission procedure for PhD,effective mechanism for regular updating of curricula/syllabi, introduction of mandatory accreditation for institutions aspiring for UGC grant,reforms in teaching methods and improving quality of teachers,introduction of credit system to allow for flexibility−both spatial and temporal,introduction of mandatory accreditation for institutions seeking public financial assistance seeking deemed university status,and strengthening basic science education and research.The 11th Plan also provides for the setting up of 8

new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs),7 new Indian Institutes o f Management (IIMs),3 Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research(IISERs),2 new Schools of Planning and Architecture (SPAs),16 Central Universities and 14 Other Central Universities aiming at world class for enhancing the capacity of Indian higher education system.State Universities and State Governments are also being incentivized for improving the quality and infrastructure in order to create new opportunities.

(e): According to available information,it is estimated that about 50,000 foreign students are studying in Indian universities.

(f): While there is no information on the number of Indian students as percentage of students generally enrolled in the US higher education system,Indian students pursuing education in the US is a negligible percentage of total enrolment of students in the Indian education system.